

- 2 -

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1. (Withdrawn) A net adapted to be supported in a tensioned condition for sports games comprising:
  - a flexible upper edging and a flexible lower edging, both extending in a substantially horizontal direction;
  - opposed rigid side marginal strips, both extending in a substantially vertical direction;
  - a plurality of equally spaced horizontal strands extending between the opposed rigid side marginal strips, and a plurality of equally spaced vertical strands extending between the upper and lower edges, thereby defining a plurality of mesh openings of the net; and
  - each of the rigid side marginal strips including:
    - an elongate, substantially flat and rigid hollow body, the body including a side opening, and
    - a rod secured to one side edge of the net, the rod being received in the hollow body and a section of the net extending through the side opening of the body when the net is supported in the tensioned condition.
2. (Withdrawn) A net as claimed in claim 1 wherein the body comprises open upper and lower ends, and two

- 3 -

## Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

spaced-apart major walls extending between the upper and lower ends, and thereby defining a closed hollow cross-sectional configuration at an external side thereof for reinforcing the body, and an open hollow cross-sectional configuration at an inner side thereof including the side open extending between the upper and lower ends.

3. (Withdrawn) A net as claimed in claim 2 wherein the rigid side marginal strip comprises means for securing net cables which are attached to the respective upper and lower edges of the net.
4. (Withdrawn) A net as claimed in claim 2 wherein the rigid side marginal strip comprises a pair of covers for closing the respective open upper and lower ends.
5. (Withdrawn) A net as claimed in claim 2 further comprising a pair of side bands made of a flexible material, each of the side bands being folded to enclose the rod therein and being secured to one side edge of the net.
6. (Withdrawn) A net as claimed in claim 5 wherein the side bands are made of flexible vinyl.
7. (Withdrawn) A net as claimed in claim 5 wherein the side bands are made of fabrics.

- 4 -

## Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

8. (Withdrawn) A net as claimed in claim 5 wherein each of the side bands is stitched together with an outmost vertical strand and the horizontal strands.
9. (Withdrawn) A net as claimed in claim 2 wherein the side opening comprises a width smaller than a diameter of the rod.
10. (Original) An apparatus for attaching to one of opposed side edges of a rectangular game net adapted to be supported in a tensioned condition, thereby forming a rigid side marginal strip of the net, the apparatus comprising:  
an elongate, substantially flat and rigid hollow body including  
open upper and lower ends,  
two spaced-apart major walls extending between the upper and lower ends, and  
thereby defining a closed hollow cross-sectional configuration at an external side thereof for reinforcing the body and an open hollow cross-sectional configuration at an inner side thereof having a side opening extending along the entire length of the body between the upper and lower ends, the open hollow cross-sectional configuration being adapted for receiving an elongate element attached to one side edge of the net in a manner of tensioning the net between upper and lower edges thereof.

- 5 -

## Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

11. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 10 wherein the body is made of extruded aluminum.
12. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 10 wherein the body is made of molded plastics.
13. (Original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 10 wherein the open hollow configuration of the body comprises a pair of stop members extending from the respective major walls towards each other in a spaced-apart relationship.
14. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for attaching to one of opposed side ends of a rectangular game net adapted to be supported in a tensioned condition, thereby forming a rigid side marginal strip of the net, the apparatus comprising:
  - an elongate, substantially flat and rigid hollow body including open upper and lower ends, and two spaced-apart major walls extending between the upper and lower ends, and thereby defining a closed hollow cross-sectional configuration at an external side thereof for reinforcing the body and an open hollow cross-sectional configuration at an inner side thereof for receiving one side end of the net;
  - securing means for securing the side end of the net within the open hollow cross-sectional configuration in a manner such that the net can be substantially evenly tensioned when being supported in a tensioned condition.

- 6 -

## Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

15. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 14 wherein the body is made of extruded aluminum.
16. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 14 wherein the body is made of molded plastics.
17. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 14 wherein the securing means comprise a plurality of pins adapted to extend across the open hollow cross-sectional configuration of the body and be secured to the respective major walls.
18. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 17 wherein the pins are adapted to extend through the respective major walls and be secured at ends thereof to the respective major walls, by a pair of elongate plates abutting the respective major walls.
19. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 18 wherein the open hollow configuration of the body comprises a plurality of spaced openings in one of the major walls and an elongate opening in the other of the major walls extending along the entire length of the body from the open upper end to the open lower end thereof in order to permit the pins to extend through the major walls, and a plurality of slots extending substantially horizontally from the elongate opening towards the inner side of the body for receiving individual horizontal strands of the net

- 7 -

## Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

when the side end of the net is secured within the open hollow cross-sectional configuration of the body.

20. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 14 wherein the body comprises an elongate opening disposed at the inner side of the body between the two major walls and extending along the entire length of the body from the open upper end to the open lower end thereof in order to permit the end side of the net to be received and secured within the open hollow cross-sectional configuration of the body.
21. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 20 wherein the open hollow configuration of the body comprises a pair of stop members extending from the respective major walls towards each other in a spaced-apart relationship; and wherein the securing means comprise an elongate lock member having a plurality of spaced slots extending inwardly from one side thereof in order to permit individual horizontal strands of the net to extend therethrough when the elongate member holds an outer-most vertical strand of the net and is disposed snugly between the two major walls and abuts the stop members.